



# TIGHT LINES

## March 2012 Newsletter of the Rabun Chapter (522) of Trout Unlimited

Editor – Doug Adams [edadams1@windstream.net](mailto:edadams1@windstream.net)

Visit the Rabun TU website: <http://rabuntu.org/site/>

"Angling is extremely time consuming. That's sort of the whole point." Thomas McGuane

### RABUN TU CHAPTER'S MEETING PLACE

RE/MAX Office, Clayton, GA

US 441S, just south of MAMA G's restaurant

**3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the Month 6:30 pm – Social & Yarn Spinning 7:00 pm – Program & Meeting**

(You don't have to believe the yarns - - if you don't want to)

At every regular chapter meeting there will be a raffle for fishing or camping items to help pay the cost of mailing the newsletter to members without E-mail.

Bring an item to donate and a dollar or two for raffle tickets - you might win something.

**"One of the greatest charms of angling is that of all the sports, it affords the best opportunity to enjoy the wonders and beauty of nature." J. J. Manley**

#### **"FORWARD CASTING" Important Dates See you there!**

**Mar 3 (Sat) GA TU Council Meeting**, 9 AM – Noon, at Atlanta Fly Fishing School

**Mar 10 (Sat) Hoot on the Hooch**, 5 PM – 10 PM, Hellendorf Inn, Helen, GA

**Mar 13 (Tues) Free Fly Tying Session**, 6 PM at Kountry Vittles, tying "light cahill"

**Mar 17 (Sat) GA Women Fly Fishers Fundraiser**, Sweetwater Brewing, Atlanta, 7 – 10 PM

**Mar 20 (Tues) Chapter Meeting** 6:30 PM, Tallulah Falls Middle School on the East side of US441 **Program:** "Saving Smokies Specks" by Matt Kulp, fisheries biologist for the Great Smoky Mtns National Park and park's 2010 Employee of the Year [HERE](#)

**Mar 27 (Tues) BOD Meeting**, 6:30 PM, Location - Chamber of Commerce office

**Mar 31 (Sat Morning) Rabunite 101**, 1/2-day fly-fishing workshop at Rabun County Recreation Center

**Mar 31 (Sat) Opening Day for Seasonal Trout Streams in GA**

**Mar 31 (Sat Evening) Satolah Fire Department Bluegrass & Bar-B-Q**

**Apr 10 (Tues) Free Fly Tying Session**, 6 PM at Kountry Vittles

**Apr 13 & 14 (Fri & Sat) Workday – for BtB with Camping** Fri camping & Sat morning workday with Jim Kidd & USFS leading work on North Fork Moccasin Creek and camping beside the Wildcat Creek Road, w/C-NTUC & SRTUC & Boy Scouts.

**Apr 13 & 14 (Fri & Sat) TU SE Regional Rally** Asheville, Workshops & Seminars

**Apr 17 (Tues) Chapter Meeting** 6:30 PM, RE/MAX Office **Program:** "Dark-Thirty 101" Many anglers have heard of dark thirty and may even know a trick or two on catching fish at dark. But nobody does it better than our own addicted Rabunite, Pat Hopton.

**Apr 21 (Sat) Project Healing Waters for Wounded Warriors** 8 AM at Paces Mill, East Palisades Park on the "Hooch"

**Apr 24 (Tues) BOD Meeting**, 6:30 PM, Location - Chamber of Commerce office

**Apr 28 (Sat) SE Region FFF Conclave** at Unicoi S.P.

**2012 GA Trout Camp; June 10<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>**

### FLY OF THE MONTH

by Terry Rivers



#### DEER HAIR CADDIS

LEAVE THE TAG END OF THE THREAD TO BIND DOWN THE HACKLE. THIS WILL MAKE THE FLY LIGHTER FOR GOOD FLOATATION. IT WILL SOON BE THE TIME WHEN THE TROUT ARE LOOKING UP FOR THESE. TIE IN ALL SIZES - THAT'S VERY IMPORTANT. SEE YA ON THE RIVER!!

**HOOK:** STANDARD DRY FLY HOOK 14/18

**THREAD:** 8/0 TAN

**BODY:** LIGHT BROWN HARE'S EAR DUBBING

**WING:** DEER HAIR

**HACKLE:** BARRED GINGER

**RIB:** TAG END OF TYING THREAD

*"Perhaps it was only a trick of the water, a trompe l'oeil of the late summer light, or maybe just one of those hallucinatory visions provoked by hours on end of upstream nymphing. You know the feeling: cast, lift, reach, lift, cast again – over and over, always staring, until the world fades away, sun and bird song and roar of water, until all that's left is the endless downstream dance of the strike indicator."* Robert F. Jones

facebook

Find us on <http://www.facebook.com/rabuntu>

Checkout the Rendezvous Videos and Pictures

# Status Update – Chattooga North Fork Visitor Use Capacity Analysis

On January 31, the forest supervisors of the Sumter, Chattahoochee and Nantahala national forests issued Final decisions notices.

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/scnfs/home/?cid=STELPRDB5253595>

## The Final decision is Alternative 13A. The decision will:

- Allow non-commercial boating December 1- April 30 (no rafts).
- Allow boats on 15 miles of river from Green Creek NC to Lick Log Creek SC (no boating is allowed on the tributaries).
- Allow boating during daylight hours from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset with self registration.
- Allow a boating day to begin when the Burrell's Ford E-gauge ([HERE](#)) reaches only 350 cfs for one 15 minute interval during daylight hours, regardless of how fast the level is dropping.
- Allow unlimited number of boats in a day and an unlimited number of trips a boater can make in a day.
- The notice states that boating will occur *"when non-boating users, especially anglers, are less likely to be present."*
- Allow only 4 river miles to be zoned for no boating year-round (foot travel only from Highway 28 to Lick Log Creek).
- Large Woody Debris in the river cannot be removed or relocated *without prior FS approval.*
- Redesign, relocate or close some trails and campsites and maintaining sustainable ones.
- Backcountry group size limits are now established.
- Establish backcountry capacities that do not cause encounters to exceed levels that currently occur during the high-use

summer season. This is called the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) for adaptive management.

- Develop a monitoring program to detect when use is approaching capacities and trigger actions to keep use levels from exceeding capacities. This is adaptive management.

For more info, click: [HERE](#)

**Alternative 13A was developed based on public input and analysis and was selected over Alternative 12 (the preferred alternative in the July 2011 EA) without allowing public comment on 13A. The FS said it chose 13A because:**

- Alternative 13A *"capitalizes on the differences in boating and angling flow range preferences."*
- Alternative 12 would have *"maintained the current boating prohibition in March and April when non-boating use is low."*
- **March and April** also typically provide the most days with best (optimal) boating flows.
- Alternative 12 also included *"alternating reach zoning"* that could have concentrated boating use on the *"allowed reach,"* creating undesirable congestion at access areas, rapids or portages like occurs on Overflow Creek/Chattooga West Fork.

For more info, click: [HERE](#)

## Editor's Notes:

### I'm very disappointed with 13A because of:

- > The boating season extension through March and April
- > The trigger for boating at only 350 cfs (2.0 - 2.3 ft at Hyw76)
- > Failure to protect the ORV of off-peak season solitude

### 13A ignores that visitation actually swells in March & April (the 4<sup>th</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> most popular backcountry fishing months).

(Roving Angler's Survey, 1987, GA DNR)

During the last half of March, angler visitation surges (Integrated Report [HERE](#) pg 86/117) because spring insect hatches are strong and trout are actively feeding between 11 AM and 5 PM ([HERE](#)). The April hatches are even stronger.

(Use Estimation [HERE](#) pg 14/21)

Most college spring breaks are scheduled during the last 20 days of March and the Chattooga wilderness is always a popular "get away from it all" destination ([HERE](#)). Visitation continues to increase as April ushers in warming temperatures. Nature lovers and hikers come for the spring flowers and migratory birds. Visitation swells further with the Easter break for public school students with their youth groups (see essay, pg 3 [HERE](#)).

### 13A will not actually give separation with this flow. [HERE](#)

For years I have kept a Chattooga Angler's Diary (Integrated Report [HERE](#) pg 35/117). I decided to check my diary when I read where *"Alternative 13A capitalizes on the differences in boating and angling flow range preferences"* and *"December - April when non-boating users, especially anglers, are less likely to be present."* In 2003 (the year before the current forest plan was released) I was in my 68<sup>th</sup> year of age and I fished the Chattooga North Fork 21 times between January 9<sup>th</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup>. On 12 of those 21 days, the average mean water level was above 2.0 on the gauge (approx 350 cfs at Burrell's Ford).

### Preservation of solitude is required by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act ([HERE](#)) and the Wilderness Act ([HERE](#)).

The Final decision, as I understand it, will establish backcountry capacities that do not cause encounters to exceed levels that currently occur during the high-use summer season. In other words, the FS will allow low-use season encounters to increase, "approaching capacities" of the summer season encounters! Therefore, the backcountry solitude of fall, winter

and early spring will be allowed to gradually deteriorate. Compared to 1970, the Outstandingly Remarkable Value (ORV) of summer solitude has suffered serious degradation due to increased encounters and does not qualify as a standard for the rest of the year.

### Some good provisions in the 13A; but opportunities missed:

1. 13A will limit backcountry group sizes, restore overused riparian areas, and designate properly sited trails and campsites.
2. 13A upheld the federal government's ability (for FS, NPS [e.g. Yellowstone], BLM, & USFWS) to zone public recreational waters by section of stream, by time of year, by time of day, by water flow, by type of boat and by group size to avoid recreational conflicts, however the FS didn't with 13A ([HERE](#)).
3. 13A recognizes the value of large woody debris in the river and the tributaries but didn't completely prohibit its removal.



**Trout Unlimited:** As far as I'm aware, not a single dollar of TU funds have been spent during this long analysis, but 1000s of TU volunteer hours by dozens of concerned anglers, and their travel expenses, have been invested. And some new partnerships with other conservation organizations have been forged (See pg 3 [HERE](#)). That is just what TU members do to preserve and protect the diminishing resource of solitude in backcountry fishing experiences for present and future generations.

I was in my late 50s when I first learned of this challenge by the boaters; I'm now in my 77<sup>th</sup> year. I have grown old while dealing with this issue. I don't know of anything else constructive that I can contribute except to OBSERVE and REPORT [HERE](#).

I believe I need to spend more time on THE RIVER!

Doug Adams - a Chattooga backcountry visitor since 1955

## TIGHT LINES Editorial:

"When the **camel's nose** enters the tent, can the rest of the camel be far behind?" [HERE](#)

Once upon a time, long, long ago in the valley of THE RIVER everyone coexisted in harmony. Then a motion picture show came along and suddenly humiliation, embarrassment, a horde of strangers, confrontation and conflict was forced on the people in the valley of THE RIVER. The owner of the valley said "I will separate the people that seek different experiences," and so THE RIVER was zoned and harmony returned.

**1976** THE RIVER was zoned with 19 miles for foot travel only and 36 miles for boating. So many people wanted to visit the foot travel only section that the FS hired a Ranger for the 19 miles section to protect the area and enforce the zoning. Another Ranger was assigned to the 36 mile section to regulate boating use. The zoning enforcement provided opportunities for solitude and remoteness in the foot travel section (camel shows little interest in tent)

**Late 1980s** The Ranger was removed from the 19 mile section and occasionally boaters discovered they could poach a run there when the flow was very high (2.8 to 3.0 feet on the Hwy 76 gauge) and not be caught. Nobody complained (camel's nose)

**Mid 1990s** The boaters got better equipment and became bolder. They would poach runs at 2.5 ft and even lower. That caused a few confrontations but nobody complained to the FS and very few boaters were caught by law enforcement (camel's head)

**By 2000** The boaters didn't think they were bothering anybody because no complaints were being filed, so they asked for the zoning to be removed (camel tries to crawl into the tent and all hell breaks loose)

**1/2004** The FS issues the new Forest Plan to continue the zoning (camel was pushed completely out and the tent staked down)

**4/2004** Boaters file an appeal with the FS to allow year-round unrestricted access because "we will only be there when the water is too high for other visitors" (camel is sulking)

**2005** The FS rules on the boaters' appeal and instructs Sumter NF to conduct additional analyses regarding social and natural resource impacts (camel smiles)

**5/2006** The impatient boaters take the FS to federal court demanding year-round unrestricted access (camel bad-tempered)

**10/2006** Court dismisses the boater's lawsuit (camel pissed off and makes loud bellows)

**8/2009** The FS FINAL decision is **Alternative 4**: allowing boating above Burrell's Ford, December-February at 450 cfs (2.5 ft) (camel's nose allowed under tent if it will just shut up)

**10/2009** Boaters take the FS to Federal Court – AGAIN (camel just bellows louder, now the whole camp is upset)

**12/2009** The FS FINAL Decision, Alternative 4, is **withdrawn** (camel believes the bellowing is working)

**12/2010** Judge denies FS motion to Dismiss. The case will proceed to trial (camel smiles and settles to just moaning and groaning)

**7/2011** The FS issues another Draft EA with new preferred **Alternative 12** providing more boating opportunities: boating all the way to Lick Log Creek, December-February at any flow (the tent edge is raised and the camel could stick its head in, but instead roars its contempt)

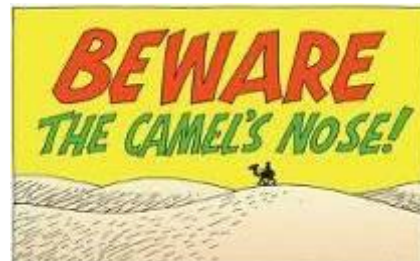
**1/2012** The FS issues another FINAL decision, **Alternative 13A** providing even more boating opportunities: extending boating through March and April with only a 350 cfs flow trigger (camel has the invitation to stick its nose, head and neck in the tent)

### Editor's notes: **OBSERVE and REPORT** [HERE](#) - that is the new process for protection and enforcement!

- Don't do like we did in the 1970s and be displaced by boating. If you abandon the 15 boating miles and crowd into the 4 miles below Lick Log Creek you will not experience your backcountry envelope of solitude and potential boater encounters will go unreported, that is displacement. Or if you decide not to visit THE RIVER during boating flow days or during the 5 months of boating season because you want to avoid conflict; that would also be displacement **(it is the camel's nose)**.
- Don't do like we did in the 1990s and let encounters pass unreported, please report each boater encounter on the Chattooga Angler's E-Diary <http://rabuntu.org/site/chattooga-river-anglers-diary/> **(you have seen the camel's nose)**.
- If you have an encounter with boaters out of season or floating through the DH section or when the flow is too low, whip out your camera (it would be useful to have the camera settings to include date and time), take a picture and attach it to an E-mail to District Ranger Mike Crane [mcrane@fs.fed.us](mailto:mcrane@fs.fed.us) **(you have witnessed the camel's nose)**.
- If you see where large woody debris has been removed or cut-out, take a photo and E-mail it to Mike Crane **(you saw the camel's nose)**.
- If we fail to report the encounters or if we are displaced, the FS could allow more boating opportunities by eliminating the flow requirement altogether in the next Forest Plan revision cycle **(camel crawls in the tent)**.
- On the other hand, a very large number of encounter reports (E-diary [HERE](#)) could signal further degradation of the ORV of solitude. Then in the next Forest Plan revision cycle, the zoning by season &/or flow could be modified to increase separation **(once the camel is in the tent it is very hard to get it out)**.

Please Observe and Report [HERE](#) so future generations will have the opportunity to experience the backcountry solitude and remoteness during the prime months of March and April.

The **camel's nose** is a [metaphor](#) for a situation where permitting some small undesirable situation will allow gradual and unavoidable worsening.





## March Hatches *Happy New Dry Fly Season – Waaaaah WHOooooo!*

The Bugs	Time of Month	Time of Day	Suggested Flies
None at all	All Month	All Day	Dredging Nymphs: 12-18 Prince, Hare's Ear, Zugbug, Pheasant Tail
Early Black Stone	All Month	L am to M pm	16-18 Black Elk-hair Caddis or Griffith's Gnat 16-18 Black Stone Nymph
Small Dun Caddis (Important)	All Month	L am to M pm	16-18 Brown Elk-hair or Deer-hair Caddis 16-18 Grey Caddis Pupa
Blue Winged Olive & Blue Quill	All Month	L am to M pm	16-18 BWO, Blue Quill or Adams Parachute 16-18 BWO or Pheasant Tail Nymph
Quill Gordon (Important)	All Month	L am to M pm	12-14 Quill Gordon 12 Quill Gordon Nymph
Cream Caddis (Important)	Late	M day to L pm	12-14 Elk Hair Caddis 12-14 Dark Cream Caddis Pupa
Red Quill (Hendrickson)	Mid to Late	M day to L pm	14-16 Red Quill or Hendrickson 14-16 Pheasant Tail Nymph
March Brown (very Important)	Mid to Late	L am to M pm	12-14 March Brown or Adams Parachute 10-14 March Brown, Dark Hare's Ear or Pheasant Tail Nymph
Midges	All Month	M am to L pm	18-20 Griffith's Gnat 18-22 Midge Pupa

To view a Hatch Chart for other months, click [Hatch Chart](#)

## "Catchin' Corner" - Troutng Tips

The following article is reprinted with permission from the Fly Shack Newsletter <http://www.flyshack.com/>

### March: The Bead-Head Flashback Pheasant Tail:



Stoneflies are more active than most aquatic nymphs in winter and early spring, and this slim fly is a good match for the slender species that emerge from the frigid water while there's still snow on the ground. Drift it patiently through every potential lie.

Winter fishing is what it is, even in a mild winter. You'll probably have to fish slowly, deeply and patiently. Many of your spots that held fish in the summer will be vacant, and it may take some time to figure out where the trout are holed up.

But a mild winter makes it much easier to overcome the biggest obstacle to winter fishing: discomfort. When biting, relentless cold isn't a factor, the angler can relax and concentrate on his or her fishing. And concentration is important when fish are hard to find and slow to strike. Cold-weather trout fishing - even when it's not super cold - can really put your skills to the test.

Consider what it takes to locate trout at this time of year. As noted, they may not be where you find them in June or September - but then again, they may, so you should cast to the pockets that have produced for you in the past, albeit during other seasons. The trick is to manage your expectations so you don't get frustrated and give up before you find trout.

It's generally true that trout seek refuge from the current in the winter, when their metabolism is slow and their food supply is restricted. That might mean holding at the bottom of a deep pool. But it might also mean holding in a soft pocket near shore, alongside the current, with structure close by that hides them from hungry winter predators. Fish one but skip the other, and you may miss out on hooking up. So you have to explore thoroughly, and that's where the patience comes in.

Trout are famously sluggish in 30-something water, and that's why your drift needs to be spot-on. For that soft pocket near shore, getting a good drift may be as simple as casting a few directly feet upstream and letting your nymph run straight into the hole. To reach the bottom of the deep pool is trickier; you'll have to cast farther upstream to give the nymph time to begin its descent on its way to the pool. Naturally, a few split shot can help.

You'll do best by high-sticking with a short line. Drag is always bad, but it's really bad with sedentary winter trout. It will almost certainly ruin your chance of catching. If you can get close enough to present your fly with no line lying on the water at all, the odds improve. Keep just enough line beyond the rod tip to make it possible to flick a short cast, and keep your leader tight to the strike indicator or, better yet, straight to the fly, with no bobber. If you do use an indicator, make sure you place it high enough on the leader. The standard formula is fly-to-indicator should equal one and a half times the depth of the water. If you're using a nine-foot leader and fishing pools four or five feet deep, the indicator should be very close to the line-leader connection.

When February acts like April, using early-spring flies is a logical strategy. Slim stonefly patterns in sizes 16 through 12 are a good bet. So are midge larvae and pupae in 22 through 18 (and occasionally as large as 14). A caddis larvae, such as many Czech nymph patterns, is always a wise choice. Don't forget egg patterns, especially on streams with spring-spawning rainbows. A modest-sized Woolly Bugger may be the most versatile option.

Sure, winter could still go out like a lion. But since so many of us are experiencing spring-like weather, let's do the spring-like thing and go catch some trout.

Website-of-the Month: [http://www.gafw.org/news\\_feature.html](http://www.gafw.org/news_feature.html)

**Chattooga River at Risk from FS Decision**

Rabun TU's Award Winning website <http://rabuntu.org/site/>

Please send comments & suggestions to Pat Hopton, Website Project Manager, [scotts\\_creek58@yahoo.com](mailto:scotts_creek58@yahoo.com)

Rabun TU Site Designed by [Allison O. Adams, Editorial and Multimedia Services](#)

## The 2012 Dream Trip Raffle for a Fly Fishing Vacation for 2 People!

Winner will be drawn on **Mar 10 (Sat)** at **Hoot on the Hooch**, 5 PM – 10 PM, Hellendorf Inn, Helen, GA  
Plus Bluegrass, Bar-B-Que, 'Nana Pudding, Bucket Raffles & Silent Auctions – **WaaahWHoooo!**  
For complete details of Dream Trip Raffle and rules <http://www.georgiatu.org/index.php?mid=news&iid=dream2012&sid=>

### Rabunite 101 - An Introduction to Fly Fishing for Trout

<http://rabuntu.org/site/about/educational-programs/>

On **Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup>**, the Rabun Chapter will offer a 4-hour Introduction seminar for adults (male and female - age 16 years and older). The seminar includes casting, entomology, knots and equipment for folks who want to get started in the pleasure of fly-fishing for trout. The location will be at the Rabun County Recreation Center just south of Rabun County High School. We will be able to accommodate 28 students and the cost of \$30 per person will include lunch.

Do you know someone that might be interested? Tell them to contact Kathy or Charlie Breithaupt to make reservations. [knc615@windstream.net](mailto:knc615@windstream.net) or (706) 782-6954

Members of the Rabun Chapter are needed to instruct and help in other ways.  
Please save that date and let Kathy and Charlie Breithaupt know if you can help.



### February Catchin' Reports

On 2/4, Rabunites Kathy Breithaupt and Carolyn Kidd went Catchin' at Nacoochee Bend <http://www.facebook.com/unicoioutfitters>



On 2/9, Chapter Prez Pat Hopton & Newsletter Editor Doug Adams went Catchin' in the Chattooga DH (rainbow – brook- rainbow)



### "BACKCASTING"

**Feb 4 (Sat) Annual Planning Breakfast Meeting:** 18 members met to develop the annual plan. It was a delicious and bountiful Dillard House breakfast followed by a very productive work session. The items on the agenda included:

Rabun Rendezvous de-briefing - What we can do to make the next Rendezvous even better.

**The results of the 2012 Budgeted Expenditure Planning are as follows:**

**CHAPTER OPERATIONS - \$4,405** (Includes: newsletter, website, annual planning breakfast, memorials, equipment, administrative supplies, meeting expenses, postage)

**YOUTH & EDUCATION - \$7,565** (Includes: funding for 2 kids to attend GA Trout Camp, Smithgall Woods Youth Education Program, UGA coldwater Research Endowment, Project Healing Waters for Wounded Warriors, GA DNR Outdoor Adventure Day at Unicoi State Park, Casting for Recovery, kids fishing events at Black Rock Mountain State Park and US Forest Service Tallulah River, 5 gift TROUT magazine subscriptions to libraries and state parks in Rabun County, gift TU memberships for Stream

2012 Budgeted Expenditures – The Chapter had \$32,200 available and needed to properly allocate its 2012 expenditure to support our TU mission. See budget allocation below.

2012 Calendar – Dates were set for the upcoming Chapter activities during the next 12 months.

Explorers and others, Rabun County Middle School Mentoring, Boy Scouts Merit Badge.)

**CONSERVATION PROJECTS - \$13,450** (Includes: Stekoa Creek watershed improvements, Chattooga River Clean-up, GA Back-the-Brookie project funding, In-stream volunteer workdays, Stream Project w/USFS contractor. NOTE – the backcountry helicopter stocking of the Chattooga North and West Forks will be funded by the Tom Landreth Memorial Fund)

**NATIONAL PROGRAMS - \$3,500** (Includes: the Youth Education Initiative, Southeastern Land Protection Coordinator, Embrace-A-Stream program)

**TU OUTREACH & CONTINGENCY - \$1,700**

**TOTAL 2012 BUDGET - \$30,620**

## 2012 Calendar – You Don't Want to Miss These

**9 Regular Monthly Chapter Meetings with Programs & Raffles** at RE/MAX on 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues evenings, 6:30 PM: (2/21), (3/20), (4/17), (6/19), (8/21), (9/18), (10/16), (11/20), (1/15/2013)

**Chattooga Coalition Meeting** at Forest Service Office, Franklin, (2/7), 9 AM

**Mentoring – Rod Building Workshop** dates, time & place TBD, contact Terry Rivers.

**Mentoring – Fly Tying**, Kountry Vittles, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday each month, 6 PM

**Mentoring – Rabun County Middle School** dates TBD, contact Larry Walker

**Outreach – Hoot-on-the-Hooch** (3/10) on Sat evening where the 2012 Dream Trip Raffle winners will be drawn.

**Outreach – GA Women Fly Fishers Fundraiser** (3/17) Sweetwater Brewing in Atlanta, 7 – 10 PM

**Mentoring – The ½-Day Fly Fishing School** (a.k.a. Rabunite 101) (3/31) Sat morning by the Rabunites at Rabun County Recreation Center

**Opening Day for Seasonal Trout Streams in GA** (3/31)

**Workday – for BtB with Camping** (4/13 – 4/14) Fri camping & Sat morning workday with Jim Kidd & USFS leading work on North Fork Moccasin Creek and camping beside the Wildcat Creek Road, w/C-NTUC & SRTUC

**SE Regional Rally** (4/14 & 4/15) Asheville

**Mentoring – Project Healing Waters for Wounded Warriors** (4/21) 8 AM at Paces Mill, East Palisades Park on the “Hooch”

**SE Region FFF Conclave** (4/28) at Unicoi S.P.

**Outreach – Blue Ridge Mountain TU Chapter Fundraiser** (5/5) High Country Boil

**Spring Camping & Fishing Outing** (5/9 – 5/13) Wed – Sun, the Upper Chattooga backcountry with camping at USFS Cherry Hill (SC) Campground

**Mentoring – Annual Spring Family Cookout** (5/14) 4 PM Monday at Indian Lake, with Boy &/or Girl Scout Troops as our guests.

**Workday – Betty Creek In-Stream Trimming/Clean-up** (5/26) 9 AM in preparation for GA Trout Camp, support from SRTUC.

**Mentoring – Annual Kids Fishing Event** (6/2) 9 AM Saturday morning at Tallulah River with USFS

**Mentoring – 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Georgia Trout Camp** (6/10 – 6/15) from Sun – Fri; we need all the help we can get for this. Mentors must apply before 4/1; see form on line [HERE](#).

**Workday – TU's River Clean-Up Day** (6/23) 9 AM on the Chattooga DH Section in conjunction with the Chattooga Festival.

**Workday – Electro Sample Chattooga River** date(s) TBD

**Annual Summer Family Picnic** (7/17) 6 PM at Kelly's Waterfall Park on Tues Evening

**Workday – Waters Creek** (8/25) with NGTO, TU, USFS & WRD

**National TU Annual Meeting** (9/13 – 9/15) in Asheville, NC

**Mentoring – Outdoor Adventure Day** (9/22) with GA DNR; Unicoi S. P.

**Outreach – Coosa Valley TU Chapter Chili Cook off** (10/13) in Rome

**Fall Camping & Fishing Outing** (11/7 – 11/11) Wed – Sun, with camping at Long Bottom (SC) and fishing in Chattooga DH and backcountry

**Outreach – Autumn on the River**, (11/10) UCTUC

**Outreach – Cohutta Chapter Annual "Shrimp Boil"** (12/8)

**Annual Family Christmas Dinner** (12/11) 6 PM at Location Cupboard Café, Dillard; private dining room downstairs.

**26<sup>th</sup> Annual Rabun Rendezvous** (1/26/2013) at Dillard House Conference Center

**Annual Planning Meeting** (2/9/2013) with 8 AM breakfast meeting at the Dillard House where we set our budget and planned expenditures for 2013.

**GA TU Council Meetings** (3/3) in AFFS, (5/19) by FRTUC, (9/8) by ORTUC, & (12/1) at USFS.

**11 Monthly Rabun TU Board of Directors Meetings** on 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, Chamber of Commerce Board Room, 6:30 PM each month except December: January BOD Meeting is 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday

**Calendar Summary:** 10+ Mentoring Days, 5 In-Stream Volunteer Workdays, 9 Meetings with Programs, 3 Social Family Meetings, 1 Major Fundraiser – The Rabun Rendezvous, 6 Outreaches to other Chapter fundraisers, 10 Camping Days (with fishing, campfire stories & bluegrass) **WAAaaah WHOoo!**

**Feb 7 (Tues) 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Chattooga Coalition Meeting**, FS Office, Franklin, NC – 3 Rabun TU members participated. ([more](#))

The meeting opened with a discussion of Trout Unlimited's policy opposing the practice of stocking hatchery trout over native trout. The particular area of question was the main stem of the Chattooga River below Burrell's Ford Bridge. Since that stocking done by GA and SC DNR is not done over native trout, there is no reason that TU cannot continue to support this program.

The recently announced decision by the FS to allow boating at certain time and water levels was reviewed and the question of “enforcement” was raised. The FS representatives said there was no plan to increase their law enforcement personnel. Right now there is only ONE law enforcement officer on the Andrew

Pickens Ranger District (85,000 acres) and TWO officers on the Chattooga River Ranger District (275,000) acres. The typical fine for a violation is \$75. The goal by the FS is to have boating available by mid-March.

After a discussion about monitoring of the water temperature in the river, the next topic involved the recently created Angler E-Diaries. The folks at DNR find this to be a useful source of information and hope that efforts can and will be made to encourage all anglers along the Chattooga to report fishing experience. The idea of including information about the diaries on existing kiosks along the river was encouraged.

Report filed by Charlie Breithaupt

**Feb 21 (Tues) Chapter Meeting** – 30 folks in attendance. **Program:** “Early Spring Chattooga Tips” by Jason Galloway, a thirty-year river veteran and co-owner of the Chattooga River fly shop [HERE](#) on the “other bank” of THE RIVER. His excellent slide show program was about the winter bugs he actually kick-seined this week, the flies he uses to imitate those bugs and the methods he uses to present those flies. This was a very informative program. **The Meeting Raffle** had 7 buckets. It included 2 fly selections, a knife sharpener, a bottle of wine, a handy LED light, and many other nice items. The raffle raised \$82 to be used toward the cost of mailing newsletters to members without E-mail and for the meeting hospitality expenses. Thanks to **Larry Walker & Tim McClure** for handling the meeting raffle. A BIG “Thank You” goes to all the Rabunites who donated the items and to everyone who purchased raffle tickets.

In appreciation for the program, Jeff Durniak (L) presented a LE brown trout print by artist Broderick Crawford to Jason (R).





**Feb 28 (Tues) BOD Meeting** - 13 participated. Some agenda items included: Recaps – 2012 Dream Trip Raffle; Thank You letters to RR Donors; Feb 4 (Sat) Annual Planning Meeting; Making the Donations that were approved at Planning Meeting; Feb 7 (Tues) Annual Chattooga Coalition Meeting Status Updates – IRS filing for 2011; Director Frank Tolbert; Rabunite 101, Publicity Plans; Chattooga Boating Zoning; Spinning rods & rack for RCMS mentoring; Outreach to Scouts for Merit Badges. Etc; Membership; Recruit & Retention Plan(s); Chapter Logo Upcoming – 3/3 GA TU Council Meeting; 3/10 Hoot on the Hooch; 3/13 Free Fly Tying Session at Kountry Vittles; 3/17 GA Women Fly Fishers Fundraiser; 3/20 Chapter Meeting 6:30 PM at Tallulah Falls Middle School; 3/27 BOD Meeting Location TBD; 3/31 Rabunite 101, 1/2-day fly-fishing workshop New Business – Lets Go Trout Fishing program at Baptist Church, Burton Hatchery Volunteers; 2013 Rabun Rendezvous Program; New BOD Meeting Place; A volunteer as lead person for memorial donations, 2012 Rod Raffle Reports – Publicity; Membership Retention; Treasury Report

## **THANK YOU**

**Amrine's Equipment & Rentals** of Clayton; **Russ Tyre** of St Petersburg FL; **Tom Matthews** of Tiger; **Kathy & Charlie Breithaupt** of Clayton; **Eedee & Doug Adams** of Rabun Gap for your recent cash donations.

**Michele & Broderick Crawford**, of **Crawford Art Gallery** <http://www.broderickcrawfordart.com/>, Clayton, for donation of discount on prints and framing services.

**Rabun County Chamber of Commerce** for providing copying services for the Annual Planning Breakfast.



**RE/MAX of Rabun** (click [HERE](#)) for providing the conference room for the Rabun TU monthly meetings.

All donations to Rabun TU (a Federal Tax Exempt 501(c)3 non-profit) are tax deductible.

## **MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

The **Rabun TU Chapter** has joined the **Rabun County Chamber of Commerce**.

We send our condolences to **Glenn English** on the death of his mother, May Belle English. May Belle was the grandmother of 4 members of the Rabun Chapter, **Dean English**, **Monte English**, **Kyle English** and **Shane English**.

We wish **Jim "Yank" Darnell** and **Joe Gatins** speedy and complete recovery from their illnesses.

## **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

A Big Rabunite "WELCOME" to 4 **new members** this month: **ROBERT J. BERRY**, 1376 N DECATUR RD NE, ATLANTA GA 30306, **JULIAN HEETH**, (transfer), PO BOX 907727, GAINESVILLE GA 30501-0900 & **DEREK PORTER**, (transfer), 1495 BROOKHAVEN TRCE NE, ATLANTA GA 30319-2557, & **DEVIN R. ANDERSON** (transfer), 6108 WOLFFORK RD, RABUN GAP GA 30568-2636.

Thanks for re-upping: **Steven & Elizabeth Perry (Life)**, **Robert Larsen**, **Bill Setzer**, **Philip Koch**, **Brooks & Amanda Adams**, and **Frank Patton**

It is time to renew your membership: **Lewis Reeves IV (SE)**, **Parrish Lake (SE)**, **Michael Jones**, **Neil Anderson**, **Bob Blalock**, **Larry Jarrett**, **Samuel D'Angelo**, **Rachael Davis**, **Carl Fackler**, **Joe Kitchens**, **Cliff Jordan**, **Isaac McCrackin**, **Charles Pennington**, **Allan Ramsay** & **Jimmy Williams**

## **Rabun TU Officers & Directors for F/Y2012**

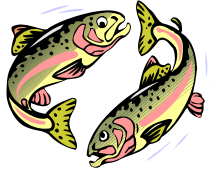
### **Voting Board of Directors Members:**

<b>President - Pat Hopton</b> with Social Media, Awards, Budget	(706) 782-4978	<a href="mailto:scotts_creek58@yahoo.com">scotts_creek58@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Vice President - Steve Perry</b> with Membership Recruitment and Retention	(706) 746-3558	<a href="mailto:flygide@gmail.com">flygide@gmail.com</a>
<b>Treasurer - Tony Allred</b> with Reports, Budget, Entrance Table at Rabun Rendezvous	(706) 490-4755	<a href="mailto:allredt@windstream.net">allredt@windstream.net</a>
<b>Secretary - Ray Gentry</b> with Correspondence, Scouts Fishing Event	(404) 680 6736	<a href="mailto:regentry@windstream.net">regentry@windstream.net</a>
<b>Past President - Larry Walker</b> with Rabun Co Middle School Mentoring, Print Media	(706) 244-4345	<a href="mailto:amosndixie@windstream.net">amosndixie@windstream.net</a>
<b>Director through FY 2012 - Jim Kidd</b> with Stream Projects, Scouts	(706) 782-2474	<a href="mailto:ijkidd@windstream.net">ijkidd@windstream.net</a>
<b>Director through FY 2012 - Terry Rivers</b> w/Festivals, BtB, Campout Equip, Memorials	(706) 782-7419	<a href="mailto:ttr1121@windstream.net">ttr1121@windstream.net</a>
<b>Director through FY 2013 - Jeff Durniak</b> with Meeting Programs, Hosting Speaker	(706) 892-6576	<a href="mailto:jeffdurniak@yahoo.com">jeffdurniak@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Director through FY 2013 - Glenn English</b> with Name Tags	(706) 212-9983	<a href="mailto:genglish09@yahoo.com">genglish09@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Director through FY 2014 - Tim McClure</b> with Meeting Refreshments, Meeting Raffle	(706) 782-6159	<a href="mailto:tcmcclure64@gmail.com">tcmcclure64@gmail.com</a>
<b>Director through FY 2014 - Frank Tolbert</b> with Annual River Clean-Up	(770) 363-1967	<a href="mailto:ftolbert@comcast.net">ftolbert@comcast.net</a>
<b>Director through FY 2015 - Kent Wilson</b> with Rod Raffle	(706) 746-7488	<a href="mailto:kandcwilson@windstream.net">kandcwilson@windstream.net</a>
<b>Director through FY 2015 - Frank Patton</b> with Kids Fishing Events	(770) 339-7095	<a href="mailto:julianpatton@yahoo.com">julianpatton@yahoo.com</a>

### **Non-voting committee leaders:**

<b>Doug Adams</b> with Newsletter Editor, Board of Directors' Agenda, Rabun Rendezvous	(706) 746-2158	<a href="mailto:edadams1@windstream.net">edadams1@windstream.net</a>
<b>Jimmy Whiten</b> with Dream Trip Raffle	(706) 886-6546	<a href="mailto:jimmywhiten@yahoo.com">jimmywhiten@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Charlie and Kathy Breithaupt</b> with Trout Camp, Fly Fishing 101	(706) 782-6954	<a href="mailto:knc615@windstream.net">knc615@windstream.net</a>
<b>June Landreth</b> with Christmas Dinner	(706) 746-2295	<a href="mailto:landreth@windstream.net">landreth@windstream.net</a>

Any member of Rabun TU may attend the Board of Directors meetings



## Notes from the Prez

### Anticipation!

Do you ever get that feeling that something really good is soon to happen? That just around the corner there is a happy place and you just can't wait to get there? Well, that's how I feel right now. This is the time of year when the weather warms up and everything comes back to life after a winter's rest. Soon the bugs will start hatching and the fish will start rising – and I will be on The River with a fly rod in hand chasing the speckled fish that are so near to my heart. The next three months are my favorite time of year!

When I was a child and my Daddy had promised to take me fishing the next day, I was always too excited to sleep the night before. I'll make a confession: I still feel that way. My hope is that I never lose that feeling of excitement.

Do you feel the excitement of anticipation this time of year like I do?

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat Hopton". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Pat Hopton

Please tell us if you have E-mail, it will  
save the chapter \$1.28 per newsletter mailed:  
E-Mail [edadams1@windstream.net](mailto:edadams1@windstream.net)  
RABUN CHAPTER of TROUT UNLIMITED  
PO BOX 371  
CLAYTON, GA 30525